(b) whether the task force is proposed to be assigned the job of developing forests, mountains, ravines and mine areas so as to bring them into sustainable use;

(c) whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been arrived at; and

(d) if so, what are the areas that are likely to be undertaken in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of Wastelands Development is considering a proposal for the creation of a Wastelands Development Force for the development of non-forest wastelands in inaccessible and inhospitable terrains including mountains, ravines and mined areas.

(c) and (d) For development of non-forest wastelands in the difficult and ravinous areas of Madhya Pradesh including the districts of Morena and Bhind, the Department of Wastelands Development has proposed the raising of a Wastelands Development Task Force. The strength of the Force would depend upon the availability of wastelands and availability of funds.

**Complaints Regarding Bungling in the Funds of JRY**

1018. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received several complaints regarding bungling in the funds of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the scheme smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) A few complaints have been received by the Government of India regarding misuse of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) funds. Considering the number of panchayats involved in the implementation of the Yojana in the country, the number of complaints regarding the misuse of JRY funds are relatively few. Whenever such complaints are received in the Ministry of Rural Development, they are referred to the concerned State Governments for inquiry and appropriate remedial action. Some of the State Governments have suspended the officers/sarpanches found responsible for misuse of JRY funds. Criminal cases have also been initiated against the officers/carpanches who have committed irregularities in the utilisation of JRY funds.

Instructions have been issued to the village panchayats to appoint a vigilance committee for each village under its jurisdiction to oversee, supervise and monitor the implementation of works under the programme. The State Governments have also drawn up a programme of inspections of these works by senior officers, from State/district/block levels who are required to tour intensively and inspect the work in the villages/district a frequency decided by the State Level Co-ordination Committee (SLCC). This is supplemented by the visits of the Central Government officers who have been assigned specific areas for such visits and follow-up. These officers are also deputed specially to enquire and report on the complaints received, if the complaints are of a serious nature.

(c) JRY is continuously monitored through monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports received from the State Governments. Government of India convenes meetings of the State Governments periodically to review the programme with a view to effecting improvements in the quality of implementation of the programme. Government of India also organises workshops for the Project Directors of the District Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs) to discuss with them the problems regarding the implementation of JRY so as to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme.